

NATIONAL



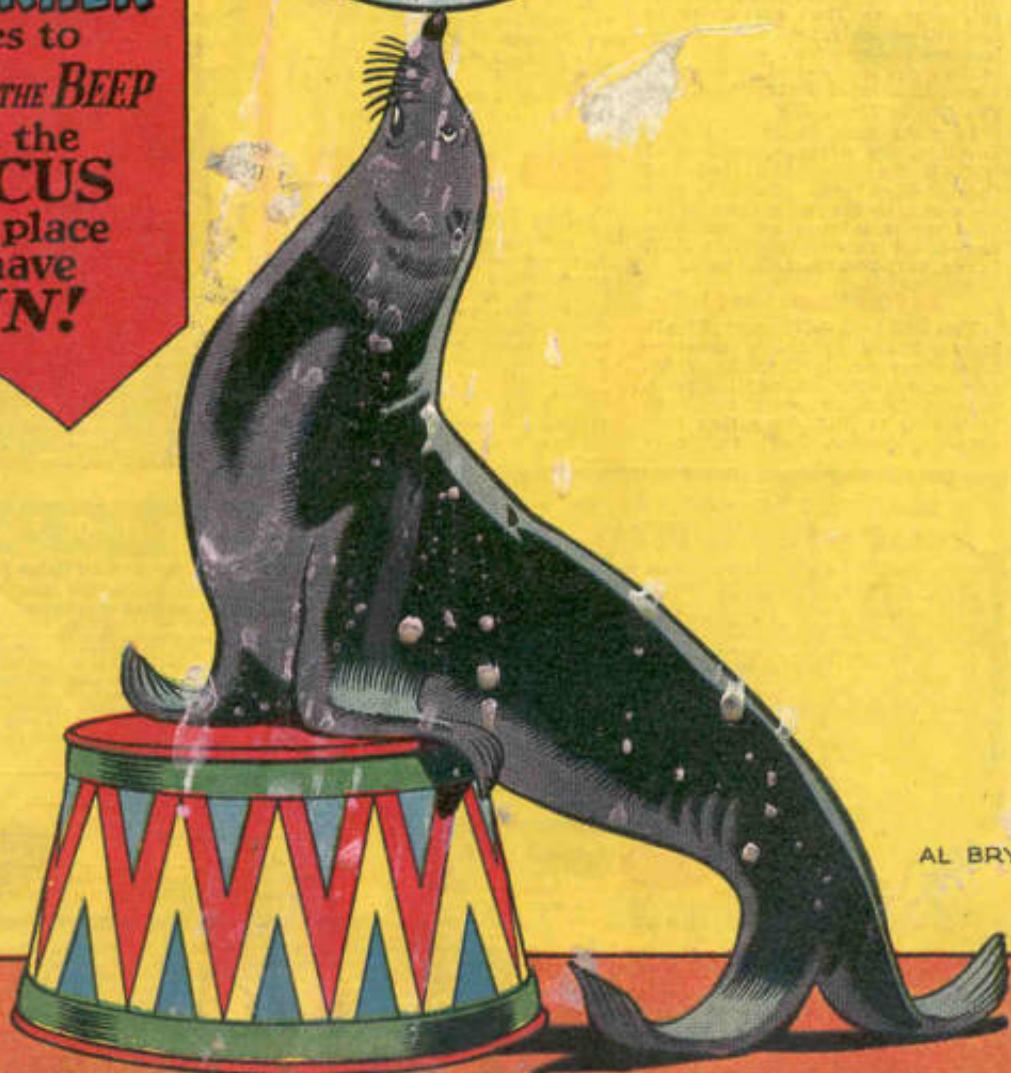
OCTOBER
No. 44

COMICS

10¢



The **BARKER**
proves to
BENNY THE BEEP
that the
CIRCUS
is no place
to have
FUN!



AL BRYANT



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

NATIONAL

5th
D.C. 6

OCTOBER
No. 44

CRIMINALS

10^c



8/10

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AL BRYANT

THE BARKER

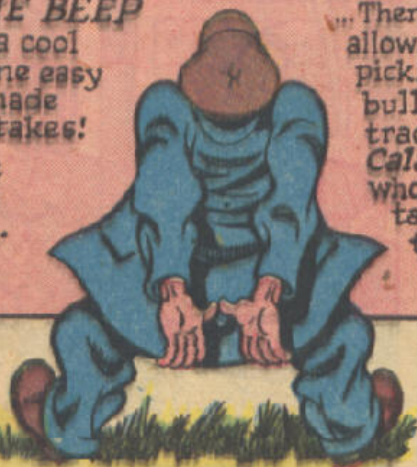


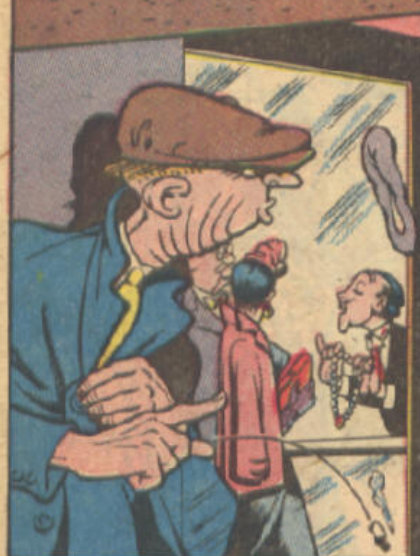
BENNY THE BEEP

stood to make a cool ten grand on one easy job! ... but he made a couple of mistakes!

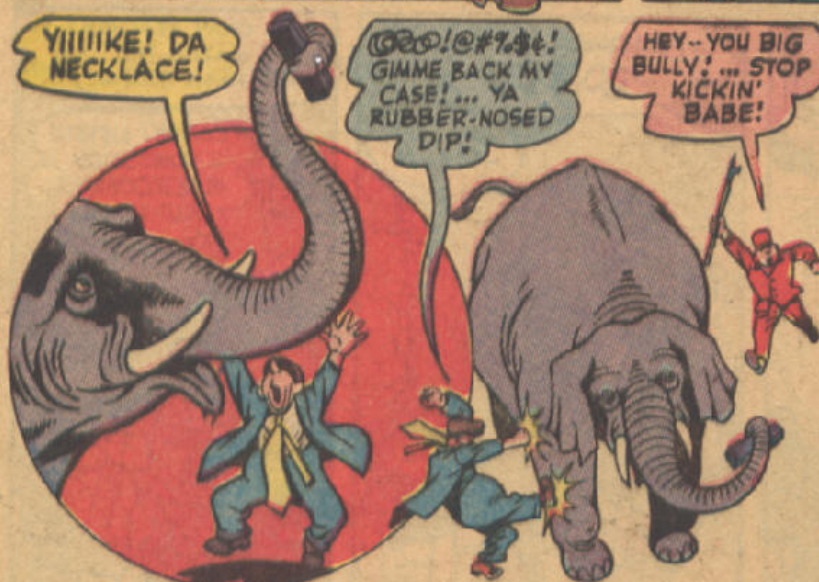
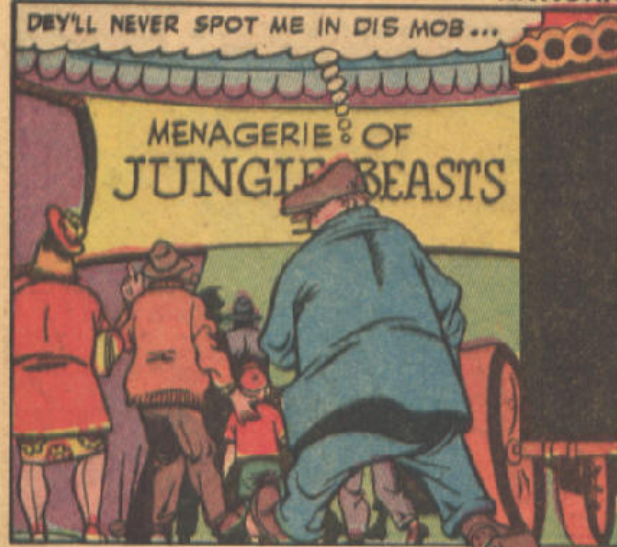
He went to the circus, in the first place!

... Then, he failed to make allowances for a pocket-picking elephant, a bull-hooker with a one-track mind, and *Carnie Calahan, The Barker*, who can out-think, out-talk, and out-slug any three yentzers on the lot!













HAW-HAW! SAVE THAT YARN FOR
A SWEATER, FATTY! YOU'LL NEED
IT IN THE COOLER WHERE YOU'RE
GOIN'! CALL THE WAGON, MIKE!

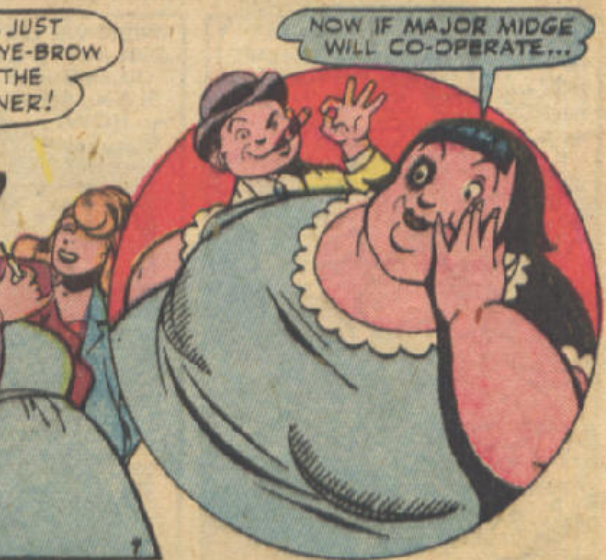
OWK! ARE YOU BOYS MAKIN'
A MISTAKE!! ... THIS IS
COLONEL LANE, THE OWNER
OF THIS CIRCUS!

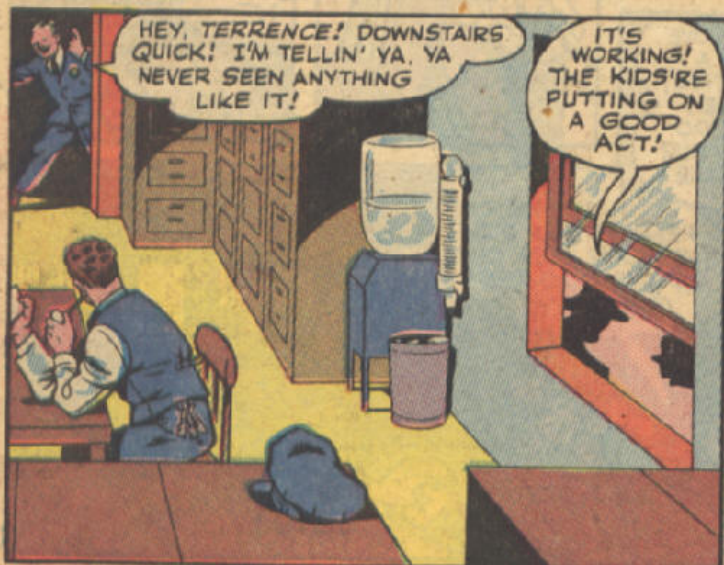
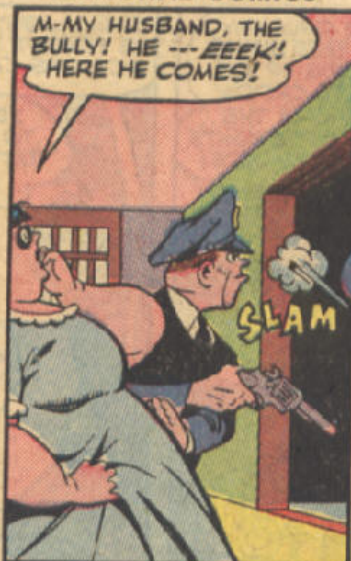


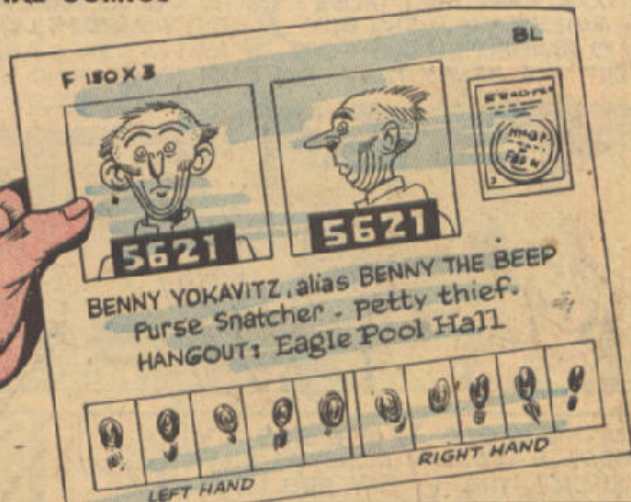
YEAH! MAYBE THE WHOLE SHOW'S
MIXED UP IN THIS ROBBERY! ...
SHADDUP -- OR I'LL PINCH
YOU, TOO!

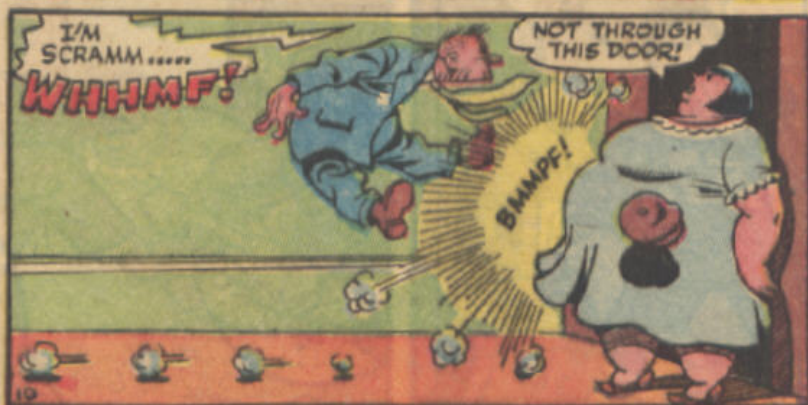
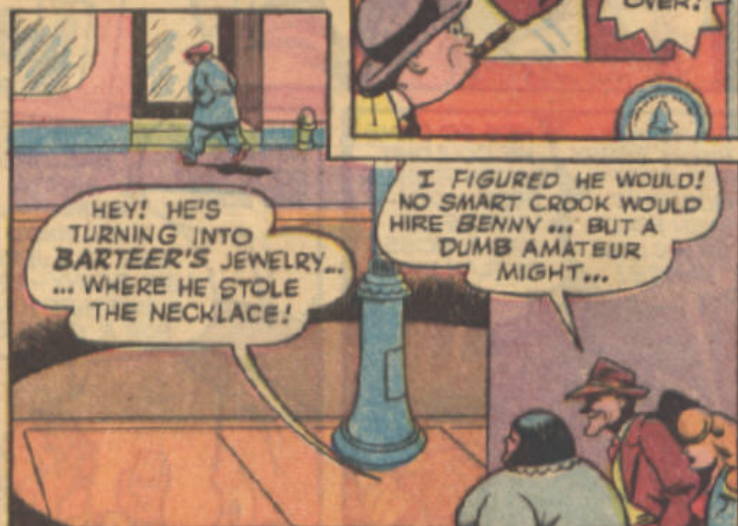
3ULP! BUT--THE COLONEL
HASN'T BEEN OFF THE
LOT TONIGHT...





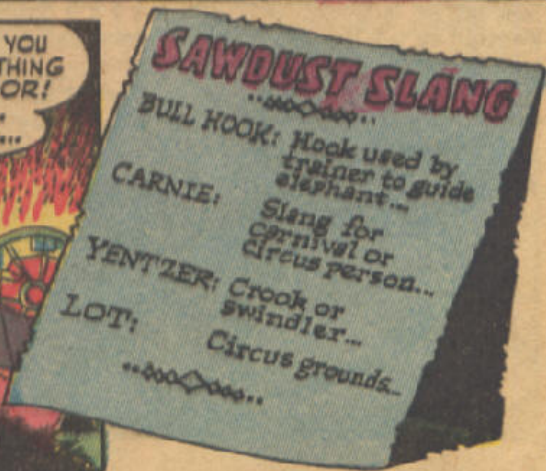








YOU'D BETTER LIE DOWN AN' TAKE IT EASY UNTIL THE COPS GET HERE, PAL!



POLICEWOMAN

SALLY O'NEIL

By
AL
BRYANT

If you
think *this*
guy looks nuts--
you're **RIGHT!**
because...



THEY WERE THE CITY'S WORST CRIMINALS -- GUNMEN, THUGS, HOODLUMS -- BUT SUDDENLY, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THEY WERE GOING MAD! ROCKY RHODES, GANGLAND OVERLORD, WAS YELLING FOR POLICE PROTECTION -- AND THE POLICE WERE BAFFLED! SALLY ONEIL WAS BAFFLED, TOO, UNTIL A GANGSTER WHO TALKED LIKE A COLLEGE PROFESSOR POINTED THE WAY TO A BIZARRE AND INCREDIBLE SCHOOL FOR SKULLDUGGERY!

WONDER WHAT ALL THE EXCITEMENT'S ABOUT, OVER THERE!... GUESS I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE!



ONE SIDE, PLEASE! LET ME THROUGH HERE!



WHAT...? ... "NUTS" NISI, ROCKY RHODES' PET GUNMAN! -- AND HE MUST BE COOKED TO THE EYEBALLS!!

WHOA, HORSEY! NICE, PRETTY HORSEY! TEE-HEE-HEE!



COME ON, "NUTS"! THE DEPARTMENT WANTS YOU AS A GUEST STAR ON A LITTLE PRIVATE "QUIZ PROGRAM"!

OH, GOODY, GOODY! CAN I TAKE MY PRETTY HORSEY?



SEE MY PRETTY HORSEY? HE'S GOT LONG, WARM FEATHERS ALL OVER HIM! HEE-HEE-HEE!

HMMMMM... YES, YOU MAY BRING YOUR HORSEY, "NUTS"! (AND I DO MEAN "NUTS"!)



STOP DRAGGING YOUR FEET OR I'LL PUT ON THE NIPPERS!... CAREFUL!

HEE-HEE! IT AIN'T ME! IT'S MY HORSEY! HE WANTS TO STOP AN' PLAY WITH THAT CUTE LITTLE PINK HIPPOPOTAMUS!



ULP-ULP! NOW I KNOW I'M SEEING THINGS!



BWA-A-AH!! DAT BAD BOY STOLE MY DOLLY!













HERE, SPORT --
SUMP'N TO RELIEVE
THE MONOGAMY!



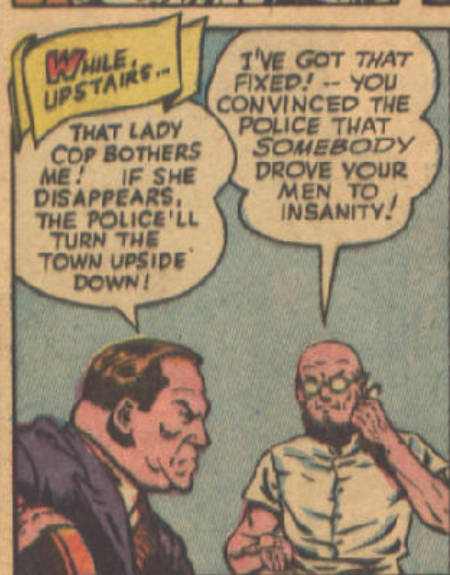
THE FIEND!
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
MISS?

IN A CREAKY
SORT OF WAY!
I -- HEY!...
ARE YOU
TWINS?



I'M THE REAL
DR. WOODS! THE
OTHER ONE IS
AN IMPOSTOR
DISGUISED AS
ME! HE'S A
RENEGADE
DOCTOR WHO
TURNED TO
CRIME!

WHAT A
NERVE!...
STEALING A
MAN'S HOSPITAL
AND NAME!!
BUT WHY?
WHAT'S THE
RACKET!



WHILE
UPSTAIRS...

THAT LADY
COP BOTHERS
ME! IF SHE
DISAPPEARS,
THE POLICE'LL
TURN THE
TOWN UPSIDE
DOWN!

I'VE GOT THAT
FIXED! -- YOU
CONVINCED THE
POLICE THAT
SOMEBODY
DROVE YOUR
MEN TO
INSANITY!



ONE SHOT OF
THIS DRUG --AND
SHE'LL REALLY
GO CRAZY!



HAVIN' HER
AROUND GIVES
ME THE JITTERS!
LET'S GIVE HER
THE SHOT RIGHT
NOW!

ALL RIGHT!
AND WE CAN
FINISH OFF
DOC WOODS
AT THE SAME
TIME!...
NOBODY'LL
MISS HIM!



HURRY! THEY'VE
STARVED AND BEATEN
ME UNTIL I HAVEN'T
MUCH STRENGTH...

JUST AS I
FIGURED! THE
TRAP ISN'T LOCKED!
I'M OKAY!



GIVE ME A HAND,
DOC, AND I'LL
PULL YOU...
AWRRRK!
...CAUGHT!

THE DAME'S
LOOSE!...
GRAB
HER!



WE
GOT
HER!!



G-2

No. 18
The case of the
RESCUED
CAPTIVE!

THE JAPANESE
USED TO BOAST THAT
NOBODY EVER ESCAPED
FROM CAMP CHOTSU, THEIR
PRISON FOR THE MOST
DANGEROUS AND TROUBLESOME
WAR CAPTIVES! I SAY
THEY USED TO BOAST
THAT --- THEY DON'T
ANY MORE! BECAUSE---

CAPT. DON LEASH
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
DIVISION

PRISONERS,
HALT! GIVE
ME YOUR
ATTENTION!

A MAP OF THIS DISTRICT
HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM A
GUARD! THE ONLY REASON
FOR THAT THEFT IS AN ESCAPE
ATTEMPT! UNTIL THE MAP
IS RECOVERED, RATIONS WILL
BE CUT AND ALL PRISONERS
CONFINED TO THEIR HUTS!
ANYBODY WISH TO CONFESS?
***** THEN GO TO YOUR
HUTS -- AT ONCE!

THAT CAPTAIN
LEASH SERVED WITH
THE AMERICAN
INTELLIGENCE
--HE HAS A
BRILLIANT
MIND
AND A
STRONG
BODY!
HMM!



**CAPTAIN LEASH SPEAKS
TO HIS HUT-MATE,
MAJOR KYLE....**

THEY SUSPECT,
KYLE! IF THEY
FOUND THAT I
TRICKED MY
WAY INTO THIS
DEATH-TRAP
TO RESCUE
DR. GATES---

IT WOULD
BE CURTAINS
FOR HIM--AND
FOR YOU, AND
ME! QUIET--
THOSE OFFICERS
ARE FOLLOWING
US!

YOU ARE HUT-MATES
OF DR. GATES! WHY
DID HE DARE DISOBEY
ORDERS AND
FAIL TO FALL
IN FOR
ASSEMBLY
JUST
NOW!

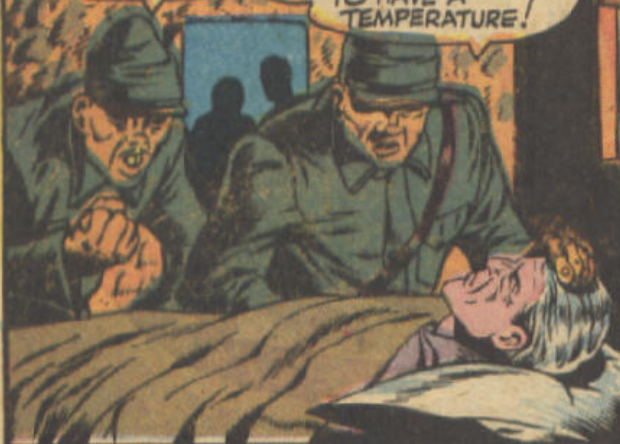
WHY...
WHY, HE'S
ILL! ...
UNABLE
TO LEAVE
THE HUT!

WE'LL MAKE SURE! IF YOU
ARE LYING, DR. GATES MAY DIE!
NO INMATE OF CAMP CHOTSU
IS MORE THAN A STEP
AWAY FROM THE
FIRING SQUAD!



IF YOU ARE
DECEIVING
US---

LUCKILY FOR HIM, HE IS
NOT! HIS PULSE IS
WEAK, AND HE SEEMS
TO HAVE A
TEMPERATURE!



IS IT POSSIBLE
TO GET MEDICINE
FOR MY FRIEND?

NO! LET HIM
DIE! THE SOONER
THE BETTER--FOR
HIM AND FOR
JAPAN!



GREAT JOB OF
ACTING! YOU FOOLED
THEM INTO THINKING
YOU WERE SERIOUSLY
ILL!

SORRY, CAPTAIN,
BUT I WASN'T
FOOLING! I'M
SCIENTIST ENOUGH
TO KNOW THAT I'M
ACTUALLY SICK, AND
MAY NOT RECOVER!



YOU HEARD THAT?
WE MUST GET HIM OUT
OF HERE AND TO OUR
ARMY! HIS YEARS OF STUDY
IN JAPAN MAKE HIM OF
UNTOLD VALUE TO OUR
INTELLIGENCE
STAFF!

THEN, THE
SOONER WE
PUT OUR PLAN
INTO ACTION,
THE BETTER!
I THINK WE'D
BETTER TRY
TONIGHT!



LEAVING HERE IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE! AS YOU KNOW, CAMP CHOTSU IS TRIPLY GUARDED AGAINST JUST SUCH AN ATTEMPT!



THE WALL'S HIGH AND THICK, SWARMING WITH GUARDS — AND THE JUNGLE BORDERS ONE SIDE, THE SEA THE OTHER! FURTHER, NO CAPTIVE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE HIS HUT!



BUT-AS NIGHT FALLS..

AHOY, GUARD! DR. GATES HAS DIED!

STAY IN YOUR HUT! I'LL NOTIFY THE BURIAL DETAIL!

ANOTHER YANKEE PIG TO BE BURIED, YESSS-S?

RIGHT! ... AND THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THEIR WHOLE RACE IS DEAD!

JUST WHAT WE WANTED, LEASH!

YES — UNIFORMS TO DISGUISE US — AND A STRETCHER TO CARRY DR. GATES!



I HATE TO BE A BURDEN! —MY BODY IS WEAK!

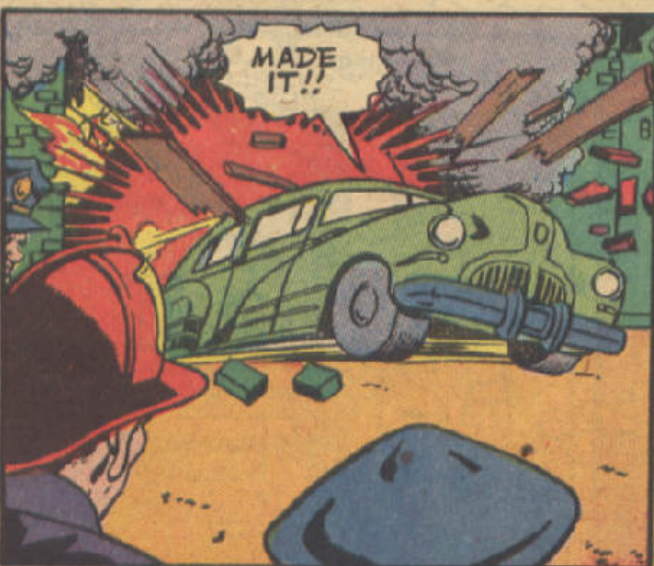
BUT YOUR MIND IS POWERFUL! THAT'S WHY YOU'LL BE OF USE TO AMERICA! DRAW THE CAP LOW, KYLE!

DO YOUR BEST TO LOOK LIKE A JAP, KYLE! TURN YOUR TOES IN AND KEEP YOUR FACE COVERED!

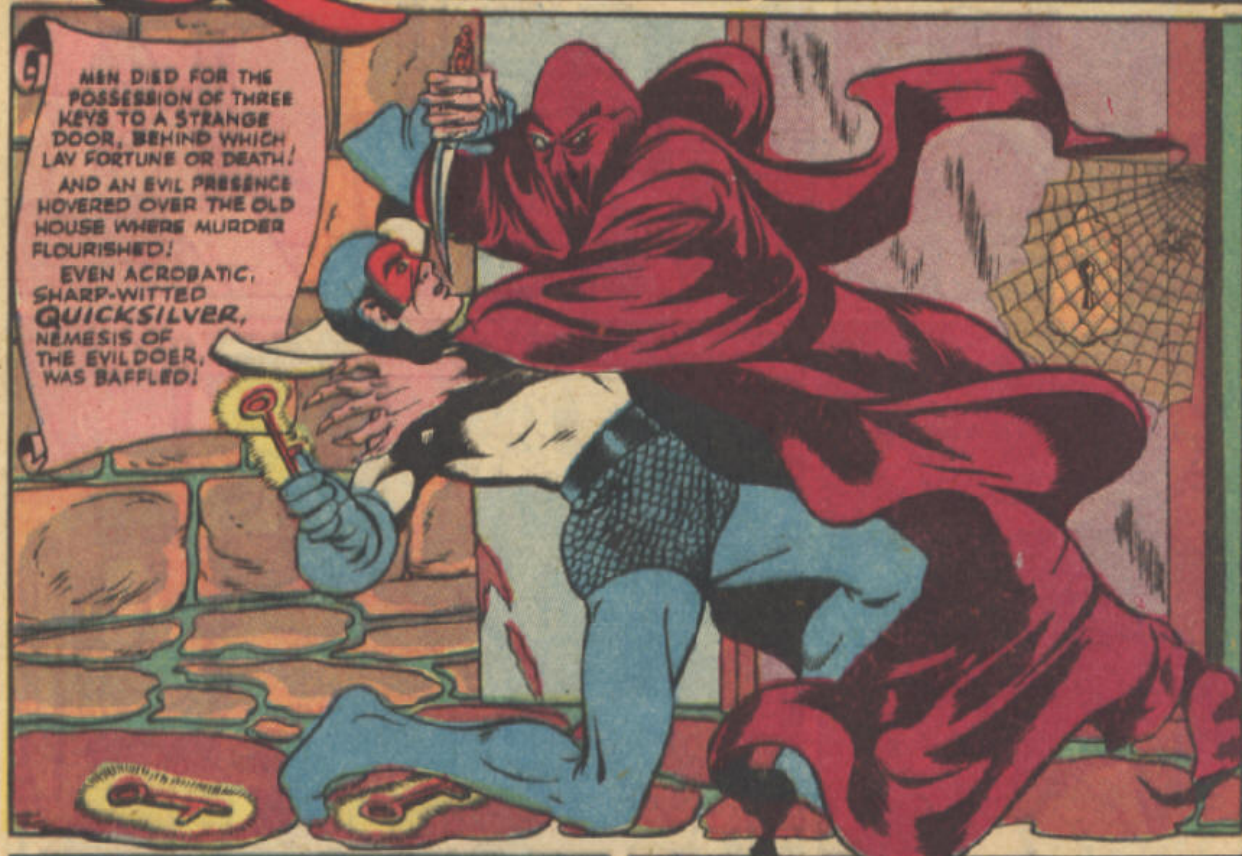
--AND IF I STUMBLE AND DROP THE STRETCHER, I'LL SAY, "SCUSE, PLEASE!"





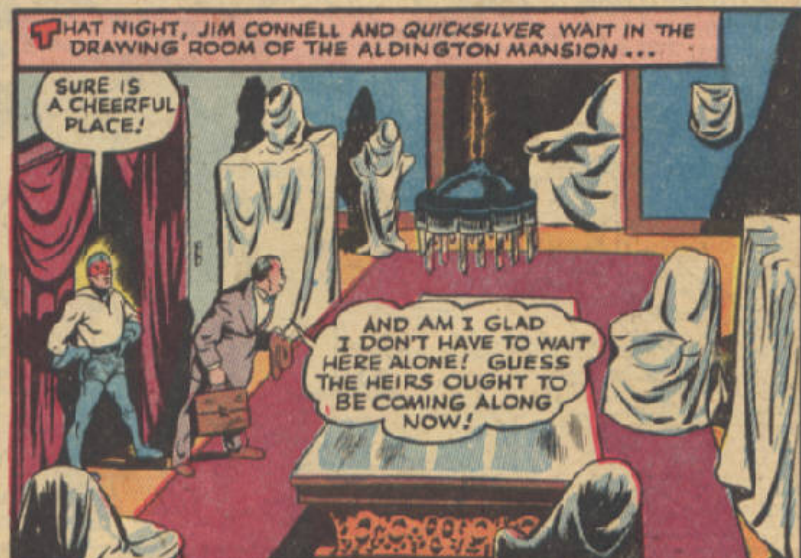


QUICKSILVER



QUICKSILVER DROPS IN ON AN OLD FRIEND...



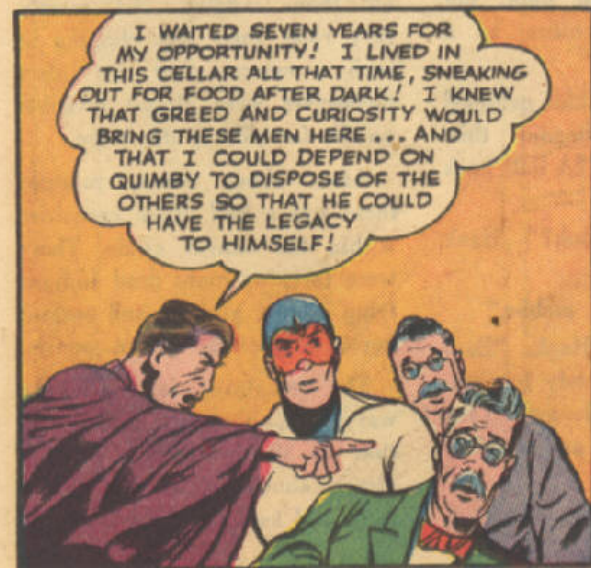












UNCLE SAM



WE'RE ALL HIS NEPHEWS -- AND HE
LOOKS AFTER US!

WHENEVER AND WHEREVER EVIL FORCES
STRIKE AN AMERICAN, THERE MUST BE
A RECKONING IN FULL WITH

Uncle Sam!

IN A FAR LAND, AN AMERICAN EXPERT
HAS BEEN CALLED IN BY THE GOVERN-
MENT TO BUILD A ROAD SYSTEM...

YOU DON'T SEEM TO
REALIZE, MR. THORPE!
WE OFFER YOU A
CHANCE TO **GROW
RICH!**

I REFUSE TO
SKIMP ON LABOR
AND MATERIAL
FOR THE SAKE
OF GRAFT,
DR. COLBU!



YOU AMERICANS
DON'T
UNDERSTAND--



I UNDERSTAND
THIS MUCH--
YOU POLITICAL
BOSSSES HAVE
**ROBBED THE
COUNTRY FOR
YEARS!** AND I'M
GOING TO TELL YOUR
GOVERNMENT!



SORRY -- BUT
THIS IS THE ONLY
WAY TO SILENCE A
YANKEE MEDDLER!



THEN...
THE
AIR WAVES
VIBRATE...

INTEROCEAN RADIO
FLASH! JIM THORPE,
AMERICAN ENGINEER, EES
REPORTED SUDDENLY
DEAD AS HE WORKED
AT ---

BBC NEWS BULLETIN!
FUNERAL SERVICES WERE
HELD TODAY FOR JOHN
THORPE, WHO DIED
STRANGELY WHEN---

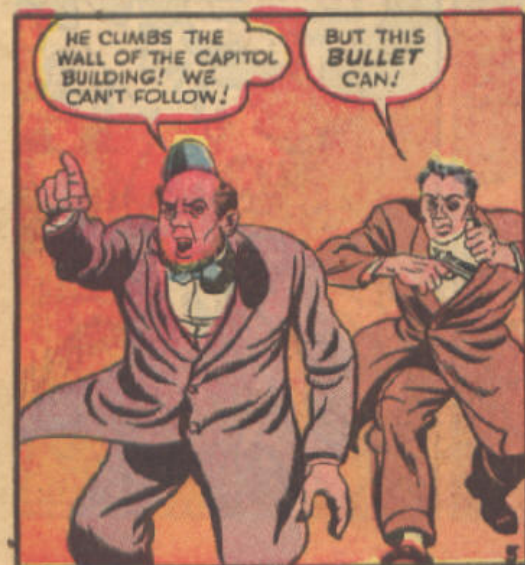
WASHINGTON
SPOKESMAN SAYS
DEATH OF JOHN THORPE
WILL BE **FULLY
INVESTIGATED!**

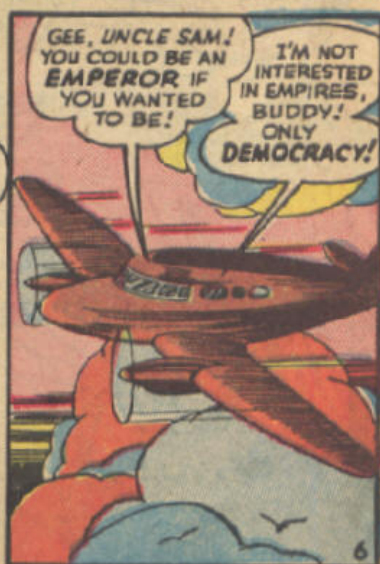
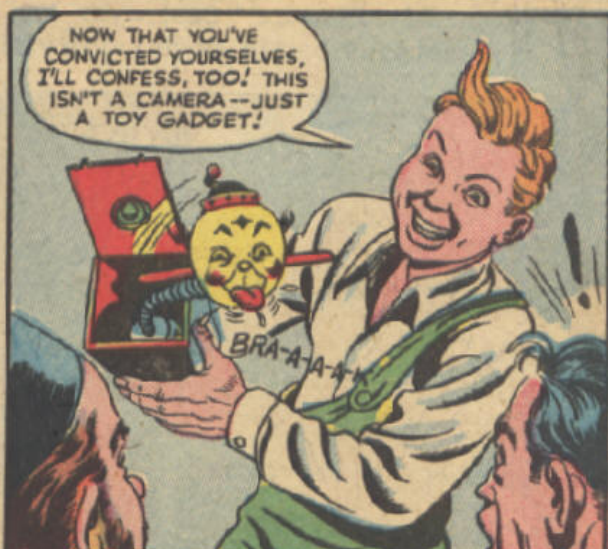




NATIONAL COMICS





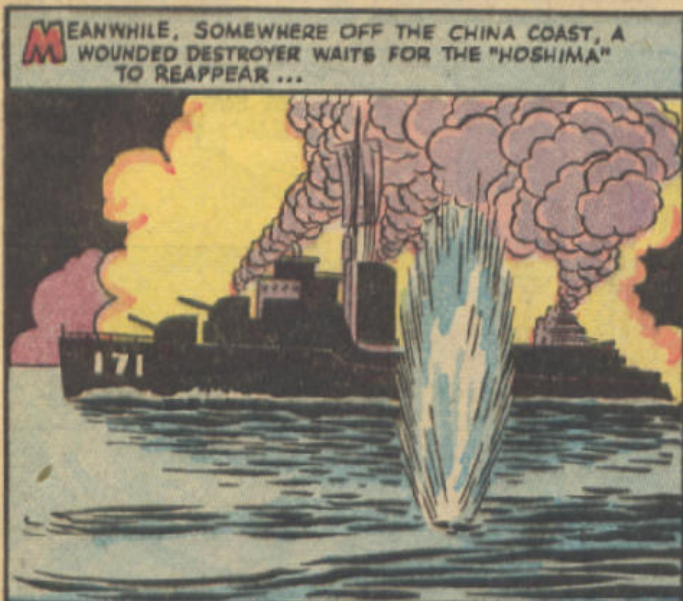


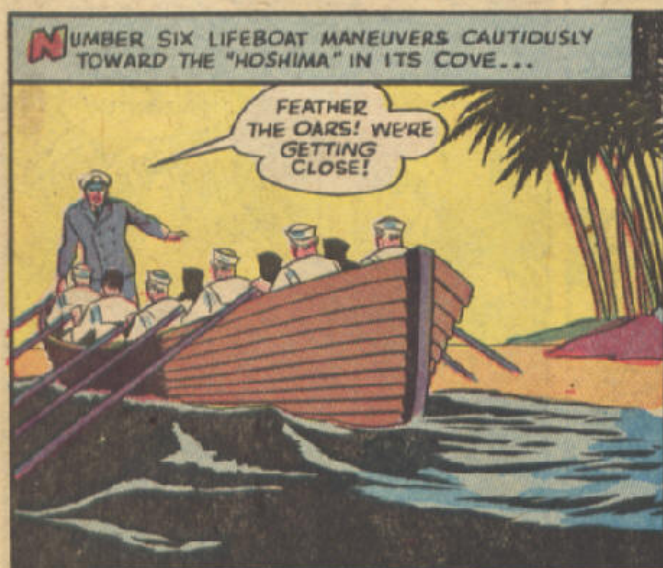
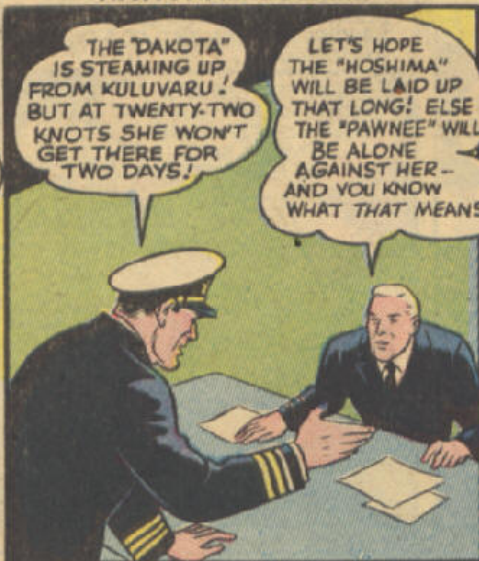
Destroyer 171

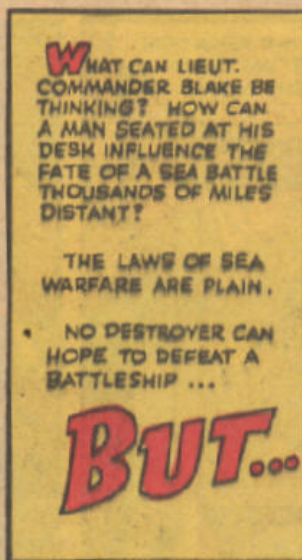
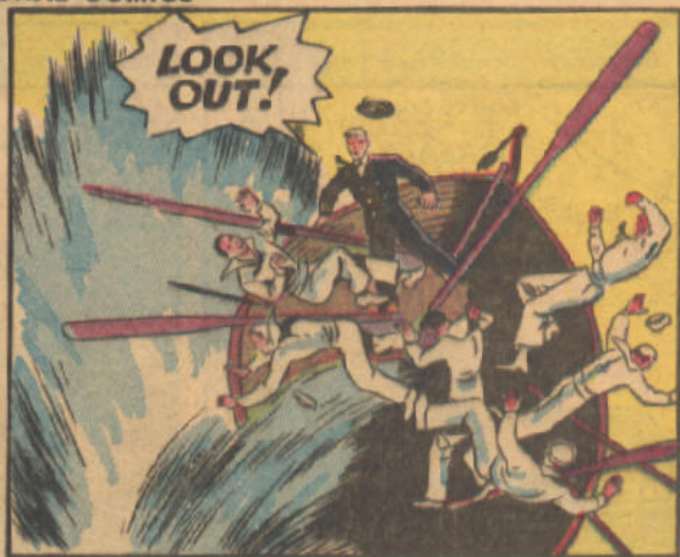
A doughty little ghost ship haunted the dreams of a Jap naval commander! Her guns still blazed defiance at America's enemies, even though she was officially "sunk" in the infallible records of the Nippo navy! And the man who commanded this ghost ship sat at a desk four thousand miles removed from her quarter-deck! Across the width of an ocean he controlled the fate of the "lost" U.S.S. "Pawnee," Destroyer 171, as she entered into the most glorious battle of her glory-studded fighting career!



NATIONAL COMICS







AND SO THE LAST ACT OF THE TENSE
DRAMA OFF THE CHINA COAST BEGINS!



HERE COMES
THE "HOSHIMA"!
**READY
ALL GUNS!**

STRAIGHT INTO THE MAW OF INESCAPABLE DOOM PLUNGES
THE GALLANT "PAWNEE" AND HER FIGHTING CREW!



**KEEP
FIRING!**

WHILE ABOARD
THE "HOSHIMA"...



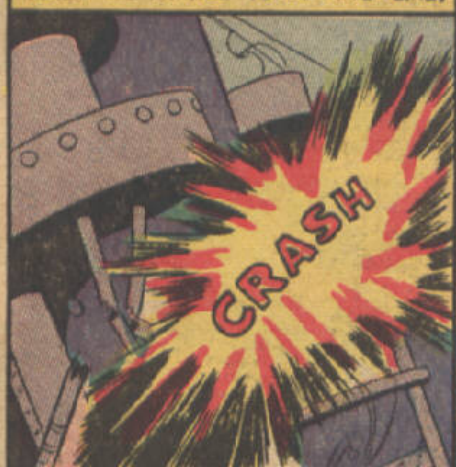
YANKEE
SMALL CRAFT
ATTACKS.
HONORABLE
SIRE!

THEY ARE
INSANE!
BLOW THEM
TO THE
HEAVENS!

THE JAP'S
PITCHING HEAVY
STUFF! **HARD
LEFT RUDDER!**



BUT A TERRIFIC BLAST FROM THE
"HOSHIMA'S" ELEVEN-INCHERS
ROCKS THE "PAWNEE" TO THE WATER-LINE!



A DIRECT
HIT! WE'RE
GONERS!

SHALL WE ABANDON
SHIP? WE CAN'T
FIGHT NOW!



THE "PAWNEE" HASN'T
BEGUN TO FIGHT! STEER
STRAIGHT FOR THE "HOSHIMA"!
THEY'LL KNOW THEY'VE BEEN
IN A BATTLE BEFORE THIS
SHIP GOES UNDER!





NATIONAL COMICS

THEN FOLLOWS ONE OF THE STRANGEST CHAPTERS IN THE ANNALS OF SEA WARFARE AS THE U.S.S. "PAWNEE" SETS OUT AFTER A FLEEING MODERN JAP GOLIATH!

THEY'RE RUNNING! WHAT HAPPENED!

DON'T ASK ME! I'M AFRAID TO PINCH MYSELF FOR FEAR I'LL WAKE UP!

LET US LEAVE THE CHINA COAST NOW. ... OUR SCENE SHIFTS TO THE NEXT DAY, AT A CERTAIN NAVAL BASE ...

BLAKE, I'LL HAVE YOU COURT-MARTIALED! YOU HAD STEPHENS BROADCAST A FAKE REPORT THAT THE "VERMONT" WAS STEAMING TO AID THE "PAWNEE"! YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THE "VERMONT" IS STILL AT PEARL HARBOR!

I HOPED TO FRIGHTEN THE "HOSHIMA" AWAY FROM COMBAT WITH MY SHIP, SIR!

DO YOU THINK TOKYO IS SIMPLE MINDED ENOUGH TO SWALLOW A FISH STORY LIKE THIS? THEY'RE LAUGHING AT YOU -- AT THE WHOLE U.S. NAVY! AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

EXCUSE ME, SIR! THE PHONE'S RINGING!



WHAT'S THAT? ARE YOU SURE?... THAT'S MORE THAN I HOPED FOR! WOULD YOU MIND REPEATING IT TO THE ADMIRAL?



IT'S STEPHENS! HE WANTS TO TELL YOU THAT TOKYO SWALLOWED THE BAIT WHOLE! AND THEY ORDERED THE "HOSHIMA" SCUTTLED TO SAVE IT FROM BEING SUNK OR CAPTURED!

WELL, I'LL BE DARNED!!

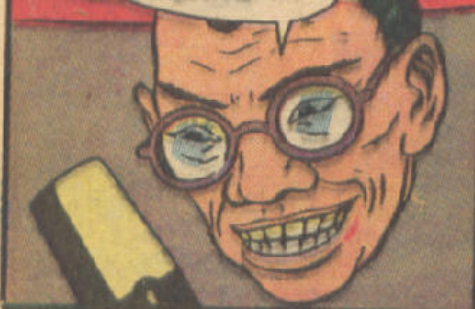


BLAKE, I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID! TOKYO IS A BIGGER FISH THAN EITHER OF US THOUGHT! THIS MAKES YOU THE FIRST NAVAL OFFICER IN HISTORY TO SINK A BATTLESHIP AT A RANGE OF FOUR THOUSAND MILES!

I'D CERTAINLY LIKE TO HEAR TOKYO EXPLAIN THIS ONE!

NEXT DAY--THE TOKYO NEWS BROADCAST ...

THE ILLUSTRIOUS "HOSHIMA" AFTER BATTLING SUPERIOR ENEMY FORCES, WAS SCUTTLED BY THE HEROIC CREW TO PREVENT CAPTURE BY THE ENEMY! TOMORROW HAS BEEN SET ASIDE BY THE EMPEROR TO CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY! ... BANZAI!



SO ENDS THE SAGA OF THE "PAWNEE," EXCEPT FOR A FINAL MESSAGE --



BLAKE WILL MEET US AT THE NAVAL BASE! THEY'RE GIVING HIM COMMAND OF THE SHIP AGAIN! AND THE "PAWNEE" WILL SURE BE GLAD TO HAVE HIM BACK!